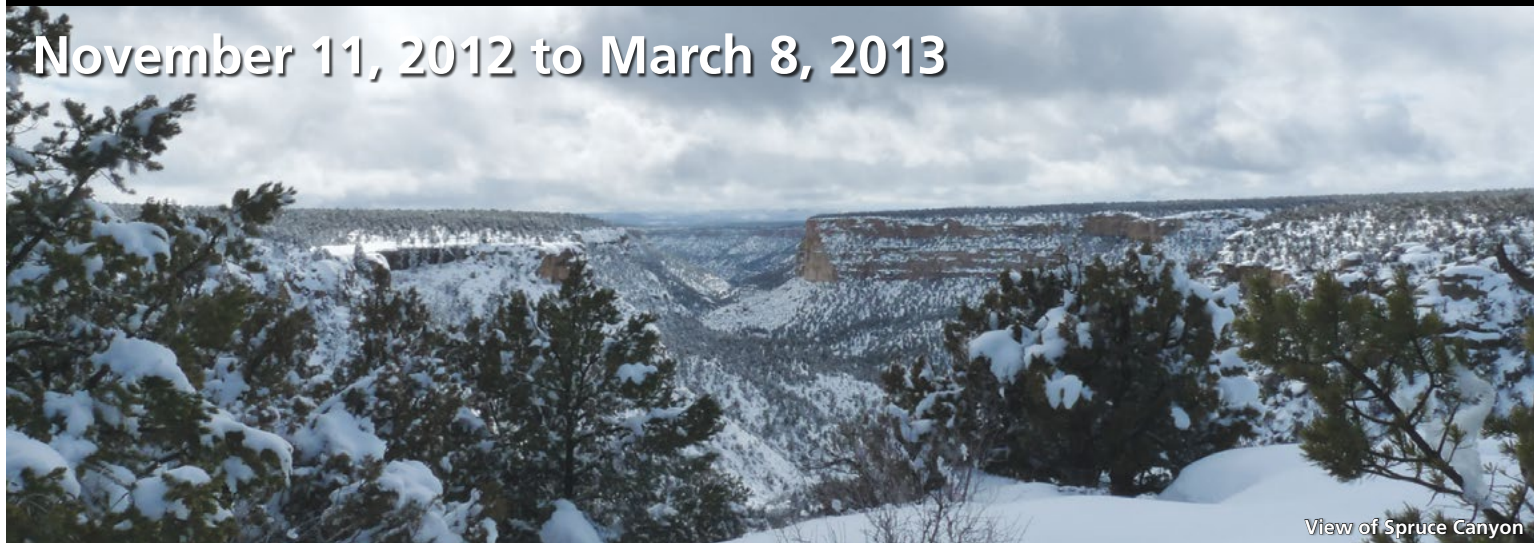


Visitor Activities

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mesa Verde National Park



November 11, 2012 to March 8, 2013



Welcome

Winter is a special time to visit Mesa Verde National Park and there are many activities available to help you experience this magical place. Take a step back in time and visit the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum to see an Ancestral Puebloan turkey-feather winter boot; join a free ranger-guided tour of Spruce Tree House and experience the warmth of a kiva; drive the Mesa Top Loop Road and watch for deer making their way through the snow; or enjoy a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities while the snow falls quietly around you.

Winter Logistics

All activities depend on road and weather conditions. Please check with a ranger before beginning any of the listed activities. We recommend good hiking boots or snow boots, warm clothes, a hat and a pair of gloves.

Guide booklets are available at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and at sites along the Mesa Top Loop Road. Limited food service is available at the Spruce Tree Terrace near the museum from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is no overnight lodging in the park, but accommodations are available in nearby communities. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

Tour a Cliff Dwelling

[Spruce Tree House](#) is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling and the only cliff dwelling open during the winter. Ranger-guided tours are offered daily*:

November 11, 2012 to February 15, 2013*
10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm

February 16 to March 8, 2013
10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:30 pm

Located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, the 1/2-mile (1 km) winding, paved trail includes a steep 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent. The trail is moderately strenuous and may be icy.

Dress warmly and meet the ranger at the museum five minutes before the tour.

*Spruce Tree House is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



The New Visitor and Research Center

Mesa Verde National Park is proud to announce the opening of its new Visitor and Research Center in December, 2012. The new building, located at the park entrance, has two major purposes. It replaces the aging Far View Visitor Center as the park's primary facility for orienting visitors to opportunities within the park and surrounding area. It also houses a state-of-the-art research and storage facility for the park's archives and museum collection of over three million objects. The move of the collections from the current curatorial repository located on Chapin Mesa is expected to be completed in early 2013. The opening of this new LEED® (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) facility is an exciting and long-awaited project.



Welcome Plaza, Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center.
Join us for the grand opening May 23, 2013.

Explore On Your Own

[Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and Store](#) will help you gain insights into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. The museum is located 20 miles (33 km) south of the park entrance. A 25-minute park video is shown every half hour. See Visitor Services below for museum and store hours.

[Petroglyph Point Trail](#) is located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. The 2.4-mile (3.9 km) trail leads to a panel of petroglyphs. In clear weather, the trail can be hiked as a loop. However, due to ice and snow, you may be directed to hike via the mesa top section of the trail, or the entire trail may be closed. Ask a ranger at the museum for trail conditions and to register for the hike.

[Mesa Top Loop Road](#) is a six-mile (10 km) drive with short paved trails to view 12 easily-accessible archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace. Open daily 8:00 am to sunset.

[Cliff Palace Loop Road](#) is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking. No vehicles are permitted after December 1.

[Far View Sites Complex](#) includes Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir. Four miles (6.4 km) north of the museum, this 3/4-mile (1.2 km) trail is not plowed. Park just outside the gate, but do not block the gate. Open 8:00 am to sunset.

Winter Recreational Opportunities

Winter in Mesa Verde National Park offers a wonderful opportunity for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and walking. Winter trails will be available once there is an appreciable amount of snow and the park has begun to groom the trails. To find out what winter trails are open, call:

Chief Ranger’s Office
970-529-4622

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum
970-529-4631

Ask for maps, descriptions, and trail conditions at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum or the Mesa Verde Visitor Center. This information is also available on the park website at [winter activities](#).



Exploring winter trails

Snowshoes are available for loan at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and the Mesa Verde Visitor Center.

Visitor Services

Mesa Verde National Park
1-970-529-4465 www.nps.gov/meve

Mesa Verde Visitor Center*
1-970-529-4631
Opening to the public in December, 2012

December, 2012 to March 8, 2013
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum*
1-970-529-4631

November 11, 2012 to December 29, 2012
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
December 30, 2012 to March 8, 2013
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

*The visitor center, museum, and museum store are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

Mesa Verde Museum Association Store*
1-970-529-4646 www.mesaverde.org

November 11, 2012 to December 29, 2012
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
December 30, 2012 to March 8, 2013
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

ARAMARK, Park Partner
1-800-449-2288 www.visitmesaverde.com

Spruce Tree Terrace Gift Shop
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Spruce Tree Terrace Café, limited menu
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

U.S. Postal Service, near the museum
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday

Know the Rules of the Park

It is your responsibility to know and follow park rules and regulations. By observing these, you can have a safe and enjoyable visit, and help Mesa Verde preserve its archeological sites and natural environment for future generations.

- Please do not to sit, stand, climb, or lean on fragile archeological structures.
- Pets must be leashed at all times; only service animals are allowed in public buildings or on trails.
- It is prohibited to leave pets unattended.
- Help keep wildlife wild. It is illegal to feed, capture, chase or tease wildlife.
- Camping and overnight parking is not permitted.



Mule deer

For Your Safety

In case of emergency, call 911

Road Advisory

- Watch for snowplows
- Mind all traffic signs
- Watch for falling rocks
- Gasoline is not available in the park

High Elevation

- Mesa Verde ranges from 7,000 feet elevation to 8,572 feet at Park Point; the air is thin and very dry.
- Consider your physical health before participating in any activity.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.